



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Fact Sheet: "Dump Squad" Indictment

(**Newport News, Va.**) – At a press conference today, the government announced the indictment of 10 alleged members of the "Dump Squad" street gang, whose members also referred to the gang as "Slump Mobb" and "Bang Gang."

The indictment includes a total of 39 charges involving a criminal racketeering enterprise that engaged in acts of violence, including murders, attempted murders, robberies, assaults, arson, witness intimidation, narcotics distribution and weapons violations. A federal grand jury indicted the individuals on March 11, 2009, and the indictment was unsealed this morning. An eleventh individual, Tina Stephanie Whalen, was also indicted as an accessory after the fact to murder.

RICO Charges

The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (or RICO Act) is a federal law that provides for extended criminal penalties for actions performed as part of an ongoing criminal organization. The list of crimes may be violations of state or federal law. The indictment unsealed today includes four racketeering charges:

- Racketeering Conspiracy (see 18 U.S.C. §1962(c) and (d)): The indictment alleges that each defendant associated with the criminal enterprise called the "Dump Squad" personally committed at least two racketeering acts in furtherance of the organization's operation. The maximum penalty is either 20 years or up to life, depending on the racketeering activity.
- Murder in Aid of Racketeering Activity (see 18 U.S.C. §1959(a)(3)): The indictment charges Edward Demond Davis and Martin Jay Manley under the elements of this offense. The maximum penalty is death or life in prison.

- Maiming in Aid of Racketeering Activity (see 18 U.S.C. §1959(a)(2)): The indictment charges Manley, Urquhart, Rickey Irving Rice and Travis Tyrell Horton under the elements of this offense. The maximum penalty is 30 years in prison.
- Assault with a Dangerous Weapon in Aid of Racketeering Activity (see 18 U.S.C. §1959(a)(3)): The indictment charges Manley, Urquhart and Cordero Bernard Ellis under the elements of this offense. The maximum penalty is 20 years in prison.

Related Federal Charges

The indictment also includes a number of other non-RICO charges, which also carry significant federal penalties:

- Use of a Firearm Resulting in Death (see 18 U.S.C. §924(c) and (j)): The indictment charges Edward Davis and Manley under the elements of this offense, which is related to the murder of Terrell Williams and Tony Vaughan. The maximum penalty is a term of years, life in prison, or death.
- Obstruction of Justice Resulting in Death (see 18 U.S.C. §1512(a)(1)(C)): The indictment charges Edward Davis under the elements of this offense, which is related to the murder of Tiarra Campbell. The maximum penalty is life in prison or death.
- Conspiracy to Burn and Burning of Federally Funded Building (see 18 U.S.C. §844(n) and (f)(1)&(2)): The indictment charges Ellis, Horton and Ty Davis under the elements of this offense, which involved an setting fire to the Newport News Police Department's High Impact Patrol Station located in the Harbor Homes apartment complex in Newport News, Va. This charge carries a mandatory minimum charge of 5 years and a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison.
- Robbery (see 18 U.S.C. §1951(a)): The indictment includes, collectively, 11 counts of robbery allegedly committed by Edward Davis, Manley, Urquhart, Ellis, Twann Bugg, Steven Davis, Samuel Bates, Ty Davis and Horton. The maximum penalty is 20 years in prison.
- Use, Brandish, and Discharge Firearm in a Crime of Violence (see 18 U.S.C. §924(c)(1)): The indictment includes, collectively, 13 counts of this offense allegedly committed by Edward Davis, Manley, Urquhart, Bugg, Steven Davis, Ty Davis and Horton. The penalty for use is a mandatory minimum of five years in prison; for brandishing is a mandatory minimum of seven years; and for discharging is a mandatory minimum of 10 years. Each carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. There is an additional mandatory minimum of 25 years in prison for multiple charges of this offense.
- Accessory after the Fact to Murder (see 18 U.S.C. §3): The indictment charges Tina Stephanie Whalen with this offense for allegedly helping Edward Davis remove a bullet from his leg to prevent his apprehension after the murder of Terrell Williams. The maximum penalty is 15 years in prison.

Gang Prevention and Enforcement

The Safe Streets Peninsula Task Force is an FBI-sponsored Safe Streets Violent Crime Initiative specifically designed to leverage the law enforcement resources of the FBI, state and local agencies to more effectively combat violent street gangs and drug trafficking organizations threatening the Virginia Peninsula communities of Hampton Roads.

Established in 2003, the Safe Streets Peninsula Task Force is a joint law enforcement partnership between the Norfolk FBI's Peninsula Resident Agency and the Newport News Police Department. Since its inception, the task force has increased its partner agency membership to include the Hampton Police Division and the James City County Police Department. The strength of the Safe Streets Peninsula Task Force concept is the dedication of full-time investigators from each agency to enhance coordination of intelligence and law enforcement activities to more effectively target, disrupt and dismantle the most violent criminal enterprises operating in our communities.

According to the most recent data collected from the Newport News Police Department through Dec. 31, 2008, 189 separate gangs exist in Newport News, with 1383 adults and 379 juveniles identified claiming gang affiliation. The largest number of these 189 gangs claim Bloods street gang affiliation and are the most criminally active. Violent crime and illicit drug sales associated with violent gang activity threatens the viability of businesses and residential neighborhoods alike. Businesses looking to relocate to the Hampton Roads area may choose alternate sites if commercial and public safety threats associated with gang and drug violence are not mitigated.

Weed and Seed

The U.S. Department of Justice sponsors a community-based strategy called Weed and Seed, which aims to prevent, control and reduce violent crime, drug abuse and gang activity. The Southeast Community Weed and Seed Project covers between 30,000 to 35,000 people in its target area, which includes the neighborhoods affected by the "Dump Squad" street gang's activities in Newport News.

The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers – such as the action taken today – and public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" much-needed human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment and neighborhood restoration programs. A community-oriented policing component bridges the weeding and seeding elements.

In Newport News, the Southeast Community Weed and Seed Project has recently – or is currently – conducting a number of strategies to bring positive changes, including:

- Education: Funded GED classes at Stuart Gardens and Newport Harbour to help residents obtain their GED, based on an informal survey indicating that cost and location were inhibiting residents from seeking a diploma.
- Workforce Development: Works with residents to assist in finding employment.

- Community Health: Teaches the public housing population nutrition and health habits in the target area. Recently began the first domestic violence support group in the area. Soon to implement financial and healthy relationship education as well.
- Community Assistance: Publicizes available programs to residents as well as makes minor but impactful changes, such as fixing trash cans and installing smoke detectors. Talks one-on-one with individuals to get neighborhood input on issues.
- Neighborhood Restoration: Conducts neighborhood cleanup in selected areas, with the next cleanup scheduled for May 16, 2009. A major cleanup is also scheduled for Aug. 20, 2009, where residents may join the freshman class of Christopher Newport University in a area-wide project.
- Ex-Offender Reentry Program: Partners with the Newport News Sheriff's Office, local non-profit organizations, residents and ex-offenders to facilitate a successful reentry for prisoners into the community to break the cycle of recidivism.

A copy of this fact sheet may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov> or on <http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov>.

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